

THE CASE OF VENEZUELA.

IV—WHAT ABOUT SENOR CASTRO?

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Any able-bodied revolutionary general who speaks Spanish and who consents to initiate one Christian Castro into the Down and Out Club will have something to his advantage by addressing the foreign office of any nation on earth except Venezuela. All the nations want Castro overthrown. Several of them are willing to do it, but the United States has a choice assortment of doctrines, spelled with big letters, which effectively prevent outside interference. Therefore, the only hope seems to be a revolution.

The Monroe Doctrine estops any European nation from seizing a foot of Venezuelan territory, but the particular doctrine which protects Castro is the Drago or Calvo doctrine. This doctrine was bred in the Latin countries somewhere south of the Rio Grande. It declares that European nations shall not be permitted to collect debts of private individuals from any nation by force. To this doctrine Elihu Root, Secretary of State, gave the assent and approval of the United States when he was swinging around the circle in South America. The "Constantine" doctrine, less sharply defined, that the United States ought to collect debts which it prevents European nations from collecting, has had the friendly support of Mr. Roosevelt.

Five years ago, when three big European nations were blockading the ports of Venezuela, the United States stepped in and brought about an agreement to submit all questions to arbitration. In that crisis, Castro leaned heavily upon the powerful arms of the Gringos. As soon as the trouble was over, he was as insolent to the United States as to any other country. The United States will not abandon its Monroe doctrine; it probably will insist upon the Drago doctrine. It has not yet adopted the "constantine" doctrine as a settled policy, but its attitude toward all of these doctrines gives effect and assistance to Castro. But, my dear government at Washington would like to see some home-grown revolutionary general smite this Castro, hip and thigh, and get him out of the way without messing up and soiling any of our nice doctrines!

In the days before Castro ruled in Caracas, a Venezuelan revolution was a kid-glove affair. They had fifty full-grown revolutions in seventy years, and everybody thrived. But Castro has not played the game according to the Gringos. When any aspiring military genius organizes a revolution against Castro he has to fight, and fight hard. Up to date Castro has put every such movement down. Castro appeals to the patriotic souls of his followers. He calls his regime "the restorative government." He likens himself to the great liberator, Simon Bolivar. He says that Bolivar drove out the Spaniards and made Venezuela a free government, but that in later years foreign corporations and business men came to Venezuela with more men, more money, and stronger force than the Spaniards had, and that these foreigners imposed a yoke upon the Venezuelan people more burdensome than had the Spanish monarchy. Says Castro, "I shall drive them out, and not rest content until the economic life as well as the political administration of the country is in native hands." How noble that would sound if a President of the United States said it! How coarse and brutal it is in the mouth of a President of Venezuela!

Castro has a strong following in his own army which believes in him and his patriotism. He detests the Gringos, and while he undoubtedly pays close attention to feathering his own nest, he does it judiciously, and generally at the expense of foreigners—but not always. For instance, there was Castro's tariff reform. The tariff on wheat flour was so high that flour sold in Venezuela for \$10 a barrel. This was an outrage. Therefore, Castro practically prohibited the importation of flour, and for the free admission of wheat from the United States, built a national flour mill, gave it the exclusive monopoly for the whole country, took most of its capital stock himself, and began to grind. Now he sells flour in Venezuela for \$10 a barrel, which is true tariff reform in the interest of Venezuelan industry.

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FAMOUS DEBATE RECALLED.

Celebrated at Ottawa, Ill.

Ottawa, Ill., Aug. 21.—In the presence of 20,000 persons from all parts of Illinois, and from other States, the semi-centennial celebration of the first Lincoln-Douglas debate of 1858 was observed.

Pictures of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, with relics of their days, were exhibited in stores and residence windows, and on sidewalks and lawns. The programme, which began at 10:30 o'clock with a band concert, was in three parts. The first consisted of the presentation of the 22-ton boulder, containing a bronze tablet, to mark the site of the original debate. The second was an industrial, floral, and automobile parade. The third consisted of music and oratory, followed by fireworks.

Mrs. B. F. Lincoln, regent of the Illinois Chapter of the D. A. R., of Ottawa, which organization erected the memorial, made the presentation address.

New York, Aug. 21.—It was learned definitely today that negotiations have been about completed for the purchase of Mrs. Russell Sage of Constitution Island, in the upper Hudson, opposite West Point, and that Mrs. Sage will shortly present the island to the United States government for the site of a great military preparatory school, which will form one of the most important features of the military training establishment at West Point.

Mrs. Sage has had the purchase of the island in view for some time, and it is known that the papers are about to be signed and that some announcement of Mrs. Sage's intention will probably be made within a week.

Col. Scott Noncommittal.

Col. Scott, the commandant at West Point, who is known to have been consulted by representatives of Mrs. Sage as to whether it would be possible to carry out Mrs. Sage's idea of a military preparatory school, and whether it was probable that Congress would sanction the presentation of the island, said today that he had received no papers in the transaction, and that any statement concerning it must come from Mrs. Sage.

Col. Scott declined to say whether the presentation of Constitution Island had been discussed during the recent visit of Secretary Wright and himself to President Roosevelt at Oyster Bay, but it is believed that the subject was talked of, and that it was decided that there would be nothing in the way of the gift being presented by the government.

President Roosevelt is known to have had the idea of a great military training school in mind for several years, and on account of his interest in the project the purchase of Constitution Island for that purpose was to have been brought up in the next Congress. Whether Mrs. Sage will also furnish the money with which to erect the necessary buildings on the island will not be known until a statement concerning Constitution Island is made for her.

Cost About \$150,000.

The 200 acres comprising the island can be bought for about \$150,000, it is said, which is considerably less than \$1,000 an acre, at which price property in the vicinity of the island has been selling. It is not considered likely that Mrs. Sage intends to furnish the necessary funds for the buildings to be erected on the island or that the government would expect her to do so.

Constitution Island is now the property of Miss Anna Barstow Warner, who, with her sister, the late Susan Warner, who wrote under the pen name of Ellen West, owned the property.

In 1890, they said to have been bought not only as a home, but to prevent it from being at any time devoted to business purposes and with the idea that some time would be included in the military reservation.

ENDEAVORERS PLAN OUTING

Will Visit Falls Church, Va., on Labor Day, September 7.

Music and Readings and Other Entertaining Features—Trip from Cabin John Bridge.

Progress